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Rewald's secretary explains logbook of checks, sex

By Walter Wright

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Patricia Wilson's ledger was entered into evidence in the Ronald Rewald trial yesterday, where it stands to become one of the best-remembered documents in the case.

Wilson, a secretary formerly employed by Rewald in his Sports Hawaii company, said she kept an accounting of all of the "gifts" she received from Rewald — from \$200 on Monday, Nov. 10, 1980, to \$600 on Wednesday, June 29, 1983.

The four-page log is headed "RRR," which are Rewald's initials.

The grand total, including a \$300 loan and \$1,000 in back pay, was \$32,350.

Each of the payments was by check, drawn either against Rewald's personal account or against that of Bishop Baldwin Rewald Dillingham & Wong.

There were 53 checks.

There were 61 meetings with Rewald.

Next to 29 of the entries was an asterisk.

The asterisk signified, Wilson testified, a time when she had sex with Rewald.

There were some entries without asterisks. There were some asterisks without checks.

There were no entries without either an asterisk or a check.

The first entry showed both a check and an asterisk. So did the last, which took place a month before Rewald, his financial empire crumbling around him, checked into a Waikiki hotel and slashed his wrists.

Wilson's meticulous bookkeeping was backed up by copies of checks that the prosecution entered into evidence yesterday.

Wilson is the fourth woman to testify about payments received from Rewald at a time she was having sex with him.

Rewald's attorneys battled in vain to keep mention of the women out of the trial on grounds that the "scandalous" material would be so prejudicial against Rewald, it would prevent the jury from hearing the case against him with an open mind.

U.S. District Judge Harold Fong, who counted up the asterisks in Wilson's ledger yesterday, ruled that the payments to the women were relevant.

The prosecution contends that the women are an integral part of the case against Rewald, who is charged with fraud, perjury and tax evasion in connection with the collapse of his company and the loss of investors' funds.

The 98-count indictment itself asserts that Rewald paid \$270,000 for sexual and/or social intercourse.

That amorous activity is only one of the charges of extravagant expenditure of investor funds.

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Rewald has claimed that his big spending was part of his "cover" as a wealthy businessman, maintained at CIA instructions so he could mingle with the rich and powerful and learn their secrets.

But most of his sexual activity took place in the privacy of an apartment Rewald maintained at the downtown Harbor Square condominium complex.

Rewald has not denied that the sexual activity took place and his lawyers have not disputed it in cross-examination.

One of his lawyers, Deputy Public Defender Brian Tamanaha, suggested in his opening argument that Rewald's relations with a number of women may have resulted because Rewald lost his head when living the lavish lifestyle of his "cover."

Rewald's wife, Nancy, was in court briefly during jury selection, but has not been seen there since. She and Rewald have filed a claim for damages against the government partly on grounds that government attorneys asked her if she knew about Rewald's relationships with other women and then described those relationships.

Each dollar discussed in the trial is being logged by an Internal Revenue Service accounting expert sitting in the courtroom. At the conclusion of the government's case, the expert is expected to testify that Rewald's spending proves Rewald substantially underreported his income.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Jeff Setness, a tax expert on loan from the U.S. attorney's office in Las Vegas, questioned Wilson and 10 other witnesses yesterday about Rewald's spending.

Others who testified yesterday about Rewald's purchases on Bishop Baldwin's checking account included:

- Ingrid Mormino of Center Art Gallery, who said Rewald bought original etchings by Goya and Van Dyke for \$2,300.

- Matthew Lanin, Specialty Surfacing Co., more than \$2,500 to coat and repair Rewald's tennis court.

- Richard Blum, C.B. Marine, nearly \$4,000 for saddles and riding gear.

- Masa Chinen, Signature Inc., about \$3,500 to revise Rewald's "family crest" by adding polo ponies to it; and for decals and heat transfers so the crest could be put on T-shirts.

- Gerald Brodeur, Wells Fargo Alarm Services, more than \$1,000 to install and maintain a residential alarm.

- Mark's Auto Service, \$1,672 for a new transmission for a 450 SL Mercedes Benz.

- Kenneth Higa, Monarch Sales Co., \$12,950 for two custom-made butterfly pins from Hong Kong, one of them decorated with 180 pieces of diamond, 14 pieces of emerald and 48 pieces of sapphire.

- Jan Nicotera, Holiday Jewelers, \$5,354.44 for a 1½-carat woman's diamond ring.

- William Forwood, \$4,160 for a horse named Jacob, purchased, he said, for one of Rewald's five children.